

## **FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**Submitted by: Brian R. Barrette**

**Finding: There is currently a huge backlog of uninspected properties.**

### **Background and Supporting Evidence:**

It has been reported that there is a huge backlog of inspections of properties in the Basin due to the lack of staff by the various fire districts, Forest Service, and Cal Fire. An accelerated 3 year program with additional staff would enable the backlog to be eliminated. Once eliminated, the districts and others can then concentrate on the problem properties, and take whatever action is needed; including contracting for clean up and filing liens on those properties not in compliance.

**Recommendation(s) Seek funding from the Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF) in California to fund a total of 9 Forestry Technician or other Cal Fire Classifications, together with vehicles, data recorders, and other equipment. Assign these personnel to each fire district that agrees to house the inspectors, and to cooperate with them in carrying out the inspections. A similar effort would be undertaken on the Nevada side of the Basin, with NDF determining the staffing and funding requirements. During the initial start up, landowner education would be a priority; but once underway for a couple years, then enforcement would become the top priority, including the carrying out of required work by approved contractors, and the filing of liens on those parcels. An appropriation to fund these contracted activities would be necessary until the properties are sold; with the funds from the liens being made available to carry out the activity.**

### ☐ **Impacts of Implementation:**

Significant impact to ELPF with annual costs of over \$1 million per year, and more at start up. The current back log would essentially disappear at the end of the 3 year effort. The fire districts would then decide whether to fund the positions permanently, or to drop back to the current level of inspections. Compliance would be expected to improve significantly, and the fire hazards reduced as well.

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is OPTIONAL:

For Commission Staff Use Only:

Tracking #:V-090  
Date Received:2/13/08  
Submitted by:BBarette  
Forwarded to:CFSC

Would require cooperation between the various fire districts, the Forest Service, NDF, Cal Fire and others to carry out the program successfully.

PROPOSED